

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his time and the opportunity to discuss the instant application with him on August 9, 2005. Specifically, Applicants' attorney and Examiner Choi discussed the amendment of claim 8 and agreed to replace "and" with "or" and to add "or both" as indicated in the amendment to claim 8.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also filed concurrently herewith. Applicants' attorney apologizes for the lateness of this statement; the file was recently transferred from another firm.

Claims 8-18 were pending in the application. Claims 8, 9, and 15 have been amended. Support for the amendment of these claims may be found at least in claims 8, 9, and 15 as originally filed. Accordingly, upon entry of the present amendment, claims 8-18 remain pending.

No new matter has been added. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or one or more separate applications.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants affirm that, during the telephone conference with the Examiner on January 7, 2005, Group I, Claims 8-18 were elected for continued examination, with traverse.

Claim Objections

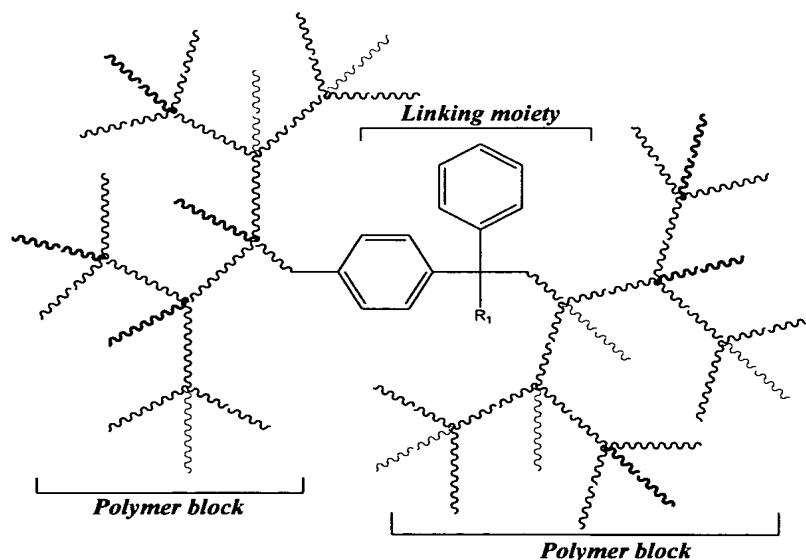
The Examiner has objected to claims 8-18 because of informalities, including the misspelling of the word "moiety" in claim 8, the use of the word "and" instead of "or" in claim 8, and the misspelling of the word "methacrylate" in claim 15. Applicants have amended claims 8 and 15 to correct the misspellings noticed by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicants have amended claim 8 to change the word "and" to "or," and to include the phrase "or both," pursuant to Applicants' telephone conversation with the Examiner. Applicants have similarly amended

claim 9. Applicants respectfully request that the claim objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112 second paragraph

The Examiner has also rejected claim 18 under 35 USC §112 second paragraph, suggesting that it is “indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.” Specifically, the Examiner questions whether a radial shaped copolymer (recited in claim 18) is the same as a star-branched copolymer, and, if so, asks whether such a structure could be included in the subject matter of claim 8.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claim 8 can indeed include radial-shaped copolymers as recited in claim 18. By way of example, an exemplary radial-shaped copolymer of the present invention may have the following general structure:



bold lines indicate portions of the exemplary block polymers that extend out of the plane of the paper, and lightened lines indicate portions of the exemplary block polymers that extend behind the plane of the paper. This exemplary copolymer would be covered generically by claim 8 and subgenerically by claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 18 is definite and respectfully request that this rejection under 35 USC §112 second paragraph be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has deemed claims 8-18 allowable over Quirk, *et al.* Polymer Preprints, 37(2), 402-403, 1996, and affirms that Quirk *et al.* “does not teach or fairly suggest a copolymer or star branched copolymer comprising a linking moiety having R and/or R₁ being a branched, unbranched, or cyclic alkyl group or an aryl group, containing from 1 to 20 carbons.”

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s acknowledgement of this acceptable subject matter.


SUMMARY

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is urged to call Applicants' attorney at (617) 227-7400.

An appropriate extension of time is filed concurrently herewith. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. ULI-001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 9, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Danielle L. Herritt
Registration No.: 43,670
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney/Agent For Applicant